

AMENDED SET OF CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A method for amplifying a DNA, comprising the steps of

(a) preparing a cDNA comprising at least two kinds of nucleotide analogs by a reverse transcription reaction using an RNA as a template in the presence of at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, and at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP; and

(b) amplifying a desired DNA from the cDNA obtained in the above step (a), in the presence of two or more kinds of nucleotide analogs, wherein at least one nucleotide analog is selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, and at least one nucleotide analog is selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP, wherein the nucleotide analogs are uniformly incorporated into the resulting DNA and do not cause termination of the amplification, thereby selectively amplifying DNA of a target sequence derived from RNA.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the amplification of the desired DNA is carried out by a polymerase chain reaction.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) A method for amplifying a DNA, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a template DNA comprising at least two kinds of nucleotide analogs, wherein at least one nucleotide analog is selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, and at least one nucleotide analog is selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP; and

(b) amplifying a desired DNA from the template DNA of step (a) in the presence of the following substances (i) to (iii):

(i) at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP,

(ii) at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP, and

(iii) a compound for lowering the T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid,

wherein the nucleotide analogs (i) and (ii) are uniformly incorporated into the resulting DNA.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the amplification of the desired DNA is carried out by a polymerase chain reaction.

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said compound for lowering the T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide and trimethyl glycine.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for amplifying a DNA comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a cDNA by a reverse transcription reaction using RNA as a template in the presence of at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, and at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP; and

(b) amplifying a desired DNA from the cDNA of the above step (a) in the presence of the following substances (i) to (iii):

(i) at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP,

(ii) at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP, and

(iii) a compound for lowering the T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid, wherein the nucleotide analogs (i) and (ii) are uniformly incorporated into the resulting DNA, thereby selectively amplifying DNA of a target sequence derived from RNA.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the amplification of the desired DNA is carried out by a polymerase chain reaction.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein said compound for lowering the T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide and trimethyl glycine.

31-33. (Cancelled).

34. (Currently Amended) A kit for amplifying a DNA in the presence of two or more kinds of nucleotide analogs by the use of a template DNA fragment comprising two kinds of nucleotide analogs, wherein at least one nucleotide analog is selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, and at least one nucleotide

analog is selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP, comprising two or more kinds of nucleotide analogs and a compound for lowering the T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid,

wherein said kit comprises a reaction buffer used in the amplification reaction which comprises ~~the two or more kinds of nucleotide analogs~~ are:

- (i) at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, ~~and~~ ;
- (ii) at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP; and
- (iii) a compound for lowering the T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid.

35-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 34, wherein the compound for lowering T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide and trimethyl glycine.

38-42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently Amended) A kit for amplifying a DNA using as a template a cDNA provided by a reverse transcription reaction in the presence of at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, and at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP ~~as a template~~, wherein said kit comprises the following components:

- (i) an enzyme having reverse transcriptase activity;
- (ii) at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dGTP and dITP, and at least one nucleotide analog selected from the group consisting of 7-Deaza-dATP and hydroxymethyl dUTP which are used in the reverse transcription reaction; and
- (iii) a compound for lowering the T_m value of a double-stranded nucleic acid which is used in the amplification reaction.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein both of 7-Deaza-dGTP and 7-Deaza-dATP are used in step (a) and (b) as the nucleotide analogs.

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein both of 7-Deaza-dGTP and 7-Deaza-dATP are used in step (a) and (b) as the nucleotide analogs.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein both of 7-Deaza-dGTP and 7-Deaza-dATP are used in step (a) and (b) as the nucleotide analogs.

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 34, wherein said kit comprises 7-Deaza-dGTP and 7-Deaza-dATP.

49. (New) The kit according to claim 43, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.